

Message Text

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ACTION SCI-06

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AEC GERMANOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 0929

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AORG, OCON, IAEA, SENV, CA

SUBJECT: IAEA PANEL ON WASTE MANAGEMENT IN URANIUM AND THORIUM
MINING AND MILLING INDUSTRY, JULY 8-12, 1974, OTTAWA, CANADA

1. AECB OFFICIALS HAVE ADVISED EMBASSY THAT ELLIOT LAKE
PORTION OF MEETING PROPOSED IN REFTEL HAS BEEN "COMMANDEERED"
BY MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT. AECB HAD ADVISED STRONGLY AGAINST
A THIRD MEETING INVOLVING RADIOLOGICAL PROBLEMS IN MINING
AND MILLING OF RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS ON BASIS THAT TWO
PREVIOUS MEETINGS HAD ADEQUATELY COVERED ALL AVAILABLE
SUBSTANTIVE MATERIAL.

2. AECB ATTEMPTING TO WORK WITH ENVIRONMENT OFFICIALS TO
DOWNPLAY OR CANCEL ELLIOT LAKE PORTION OF MEETING. AT
PRESENT, HOWEVER, THEIR CHANCES OF SUCCESS BY THEIR OWN
ASSESSMENT APPEAR SLIM.

3. CONSIDERING ABOVE CIRCUMSTANCES, SUGGEST THAT DEPT MAY
WISH TO SELECT POSSIBLE U.S. ATTENDEES WITH CARE AND CAUTION
THEM ABOUT AVOIDING BECOMING INVOLVED IN CANADIAN INTERAGENCY
CONFLICT.

4. FYI: PROVINCIAL AUTHORITIES AND MINERS IN ELLIOT LAKE
PERIODICALLY BECOME DISTURBED ABOUT SERIOUSNESS OF HAZARD.
VISIT BY INTERNATIONAL TEAM SUCH AS ENVISIONED BY REFTEL AND
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MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT OFFICIALS WOULD ALMOST

CERTAINLY CAUSE RENEWED LOCAL CONCERN AT WORKING LEVEL
UNLESS HANDLED WITH GREAT PUBLIC RELATIONS CARE.
PORTER

NOTE BY OC/T: REFTEL OMITTED. WILL BE SERVICED ON REQUEST.

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